

August 15, 2006

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-06-010

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region IV staff on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Southern California Edison	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
San Clemente, CA	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
Docket: 50-206	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
License: DPR-13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

SUBJECT: TRITIUM DETECTED IN WATER SAMPLES TAKEN ON THE SITE

DESCRIPTION: On August 7, 2006, the licensee identified low levels of tritium (hydrogen-3) measured in water samples taken at the Unit 1 site which is undergoing decommissioning. The tritium levels ranged from 50,000 to 330,000 picoCuries per liter. These levels are below the threshold for required reporting specified in 10 CFR Part 20. On August 14, 2006, the licensee made a voluntary communication to California state and local government agencies regarding this issue. The groundwater beneath the site is not a source of drinking water.

The licensee is investigating possible sources of the tritium. The Unit 1 reactor ceased commercial operations in 1992 and in recent years has been undergoing dismantlement and decommissioning.

The onsite NRC resident inspectors have reviewed the licensee's measurement results and activities. NRC regional radiation specialists will continue to monitor the measurements and licensee assessments during inspections of Unit 1 decommissioning activities.

While the licensee's environmental monitoring continues, the radioactive contamination poses no danger to public health and safety.

Region IV has informed EDO, NRR, and PA.

The licensee voluntarily notified the NRC Operations Center of this situation at 12:08 p.m. PDT on August 14, 2006. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 12:00 p.m. on August 15, 2006.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML062270388

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